

REMARKS:

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 24, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-23, 25, 27, and 29 stand allowable.

Claims 30-39 have been added.

By this amendment, the Applicants have amended Claims 13, 19, 24, 26, and 28 in order to correct certain antecedent basis issues. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 13, 19, 24, 26, and 28 are not necessitated by any prior art and are unrelated to the patentability of the present invention. In addition, new Claims 30-39 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the Applicants invention. By making these amendments, the Applicants make no admission concerning the merits of the Examiner's rejection, and respectfully reserve the right to address any statement or averment of the Examiner not specifically addressed in this response. Particularly, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader claims in this Application or through a continuation patent application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 24, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner specifically states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for various limitations recited in Claims 24, 26, and 28. (4 May 2007 Office Action, Page 2). In response the Applicants have amended Claims 24, 26, and 28 to correct the various antecedent basis issues. In addition, the Applicants have amended Claims 13 and 19 to correct certain antecedent basis issues.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24, 26, and 28 are considered to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Applicants further

respectfully submit that as acknowledged by the Examiner, Claims 24, 26, and 28 are in condition for allowance. (4 May 2007 Office Action, Page 2). Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 24, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be reconsidered and that Claims 24, 26, and 28 be allowed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1-23, 25, 27, and 29 stand allowable.

The Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner acknowledging that Claims 1-23, 25, 27, and 29 contain allowable subject matter. The Applicants further greatly appreciate the Examiner acknowledging that Claims 24, 26, and 28 contain allowable subject matter, “with the 112 corrections”. (4 May 2007 Office Action, Page 2).

In addition, the Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 30-39 contain allowable subject matter, similar to the allowable subject matter recited in Claims 1-29.

The Applicants New Claims 30-39 are Patentable over the Proposed *Shoham-Beck-Paton* Combination

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner acknowledges and the Applicants agree that independent Claim 1, 5, and 9 are considered patentably distinguishable over the proposed combination of *Shoham, Beck, and Paton*. (4 May 2007 Office Action, Page 2). This being the case, new independent Claim 30 is also considered patentably distinguishable over the proposed combination of *Shoham, Beck, and Paton*, for at least the reasons discussed in the previous Response to Office action, in connection with independent Claims 1, 5, and 9.

Furthermore, dependent Claims 31-39 depend from independent Claim 30. As mentioned above, each of independent Claim 30 is considered patentably distinguishable over *Shoham, Beck, and Paton*. Thus, dependent Claims 31-39 are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason of depending from an allowable claim.

For at least the reasons set forth herein, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31-39 are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of *Shoham*, *Beck*, and *Paton*. The Applicants further respectfully submit that Claims 31-39 are in condition for allowance. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that Claims 31-39 be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

The Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Shoham*, *Beck*, and *Paton*.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Director to charge the amount of \$700.00 for the \$200.00 Fee for one (1) independent claim in excess of three and the \$500.00 Fee for ten (10) additional claims in excess of twenty to Deposit Account No. 500777. Although the Applicants believe no additional fees are deemed to be necessary; the undersigned hereby authorizes the Director to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 500777**. If an extension of time is necessary for allowing this Response to be timely filed, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to the extent necessary. Any fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time should be charged to **Deposit Account No. 500777**.

Please link this application to Customer No. 53184 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

10 May 2007
Date

/Steven J. Laureanti/signed
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